

Wednesday, June 2, 2010

**Denise Hopkins, 57, female jockey pioneer**

Denise (Boudrot) Hopkins, age 57, died on May 19 after a two-year battle with brain cancer at her farm in Grafton, Vt. She had been a resident of Standish Road, Duxbury for 12 years, and also had a farm in

Ocala Fla.

For 13 years, Mrs. Hopkins rode the New England thoroughbred racehorse circuit winning over one thousand races. In 1972, she rode in her first horse race. She was a pioneer for female jockeys, at a time when there were very few of them at the track. She earned the nickname Longshot Lady and in the fall of 1974,

the 22-year-old became the first woman to win a riding title at a major thoroughbred track – Suffolk Downs. Recently, the New England Turf Writers Association elected her to its Hall of Fame. Mrs. Hopkins is the fifth jockey recognized by the NETWA with this honor, and the only woman.

Retiring in 1985, she married Roland Hopkins, the founder of the New England and New York Real Estate Journals and a successful racehorse owner.

Mrs. Hopkins leaves her husband Rolly; her stepdaughters Tracey Denelle of Duxbury and Kathi Blair of Hingham; her stepsons Stephen of Cambridge and Rock of Pasadena, Calif.; and her six grandchildren.

A ceremony was celebrated in Vermont on Memorial Day. In lieu of flowers please send donations to the Springfield Humane Society, 401 Skitchewaug Trail, Springfield, VT 05156-8820 or the Norris Cotton Cancer Center at Dartmouth Hitchcock, One Medical Center Dr., Lebanon, NH 03756-0001.